

REMARKS

Applicants are pleased to see that the Examiner has continued to take the position that the subject matter now recited in claims 50-68, 70-73 and 75-77 are allowed.

Claim 69 has been canceled. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue this subject matter in a future continuing application.

Claim 65 has been amended to add a period (.) at the end of the claim.

Claim 74 has been amended in response to the outstanding §112, second paragraph rejection. No new matter is added by amendment to claim 74.

Applicants respectfully reiterate that the continuing data for this application, as entered in the Amendment mailed 12 April 2002, should read as follows:

This application is a continuation of U.S. application serial no. 08/702,502, which is the §371 U.S. national phase prosecution of PCT international application serial no. PCT/US95/02633, filed March 3, 1995, now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application serial no. 207,526, filed March 7, 1994.

Rejection of Claim 74 Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claim 74 stands rejected under §112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully overcome this rejection by amendment to claim 74, namely:

Step 9 - deleting “using a gene” and inserting – obtained --, as suggested by the Examiner;

Step 12 - deleting the term “several mutations on several constructs such as variable loop removal”;

Step 15 - deleting step 15;

Steps 16-19 (new Steps 15-18) - amending these respective steps to delete reference to a nucleic acid sequence and to instead recite the expressed protein.

Claim 74 is further amended to correct several punctuation oversights.

These amendments to original claim 74, as suggested by the Examiner, bring currently amended claim 74 into proper form for allowance. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the cancellation of claim 69 and amendment to claims 65 and 74, Applicants respectfully take the position that all claims are now in proper form for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if clarification is required on any aspect of this response, or if any of the claims are considered to require further amendment to be placed in condition for allowance after entry of this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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